

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JOHN N. HARMS

District 48

Legislative Address:

State Capitol

PO Box 94604

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604

(402) 471-2802

jharms@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Vice Chairperson - Appropriations
Chairperson - Legislative Performance Audit
Education Commission of the States

December 11, 2009

Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I have been asked to write a letter of recommendation for Western Nebraska Community College Wind Energy Training Center. I am pleased to be able to support their request, and can assure you that it merits your most serious consideration.

As a senator in the Nebraska Legislature, I have been involved with some of my colleagues in pursuing wind energy for Nebraska. We have made a number of changes in the laws to make sure that Nebraska can be a major player in wind energy development for the future. We have discovered that one major problem we have in Nebraska, as well as regionally; is that we do not have the appropriate trained workforce that would compliment the development of the wind energy. There is a need to have a wind training center in Western Nebraska. As you know, Nebraska is recognized as one of the top states for wind energy potential.

Western Nebraska Community College is located in the center of the current emerging growth of wind technology, not only in Nebraska but in Colorado and Minnesota. As we look next door to Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and South Dakota, we are beginning to see many towering wind turbines. It is important for the economy of Western Nebraska to develop this center so that we can encourage companies to partnership with Nebraska in developing wind energy.

This program is vital to the economy in Western Nebraska for the future. The investment that companies will make in our workforce will help our economy.

Western Nebraska Community College will be successful in the wind energy training center. They have a great history in training for different companies, and have been the sole trainer for Cabela's in Western Nebraska. They partnered with Cabela's in providing training for their workforce in every new store that they opened across the country. This partnership helped Cabela's grow in a cost effective manner.

I am sharing this information with you so that you understand that if this program is funded, they will be successful. They have the experience, the ability, and a talented staff to make it happen.

In closing, I hope you will consider the college's proposal for a wind energy training center. It is vital to this region for potential growth in the future. I have reviewed the proposal, and it is outstanding.

If I can be of any assistance to you in the evaluation of the college or this program, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 308-641-6296 (cell) or 402-471-2802 (office).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Harms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Harms".

John N. Harms
48th District